



News Release

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY
Tracy L. Wareing, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW CPS LEADER ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT BUILDING ON RECENT IMPROVEMENTS

PHOENIX – (November 27, 2006) Building on current successes to lead Arizona through the next stage of improvement in Child Protective Services will be the top priority for Arizona's new child welfare director.

Ken Deibert has been named DES Deputy Director for the Division of Children, Youth and Families. In this capacity, Deibert will oversee the state's CPS system, as well as a host of support programs aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect and helping young victims find safer, more permanent homes.

Deibert, who began work on October 30, joins DES at a time when Arizona celebrates tremendous progress in protecting children, strengthening families, finding permanent homes for children, and providing more support to those who work to make child and family well-being a priority in our state.

"Arizona is known nationally as a state at the forefront of child welfare improvement," Deibert said. "I am excited to lead a team that is focused on innovation and community partnership as a means to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and their families."

"I have seen first-hand the impact that family and community involvement can have in child welfare, and am delighted to be part of those efforts in Arizona"

Deibert, who is a licensed social worker, brings to DES 30 years of experience in health care and social services, including the past five years spent as the director of child welfare services for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. In Idaho, Deibert was credited with implementation of systemic service integration and best practice strategies. He holds a Master of Social Work from Tulane University.

DES Director Tracy L. Wareing said the department is thrilled to have a new team member whose past experience mirrors the integrated services business model adopted by the Department three years ago.

"We are fortunate to recruit an individual with such a diverse background in child welfare and related services," Wareing said. "Ken's background and experience are just the catalysts we need to build on our current successes in improving child welfare."

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